

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9761
INFO EC COLLECTIVE 166
AMEMBASSY BERLON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, CZ, NL
SUBJ: CHARTER '77: DUTCH EXPRESS CONCERNS

1. ARREST AND HARASSMENT BY CZECH OFFICIALS OF CHARTER '77 GROUP HAS PROVOKED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT BY DUTCH OFFICIALS. DURING REGULAR WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 21, PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL SAID THAT RECENT ACTIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AGAINST PEOPLE WHO WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE FINAL ACT WERE OF GREAT CONCERN. AS HOLLAND HAD PINNED HIGH HOPES ON THE BEGRRADE REVIEW CONFERENCE, "IT WAS ALL THE MORE PAINFUL TO OBSERVE THESE DEVELOPMENTS," HE SAID. BECAUSE THE GON DID NOT BELIEVE THAT OTHER STEPS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE CZECH AUTHORITIES, DEN UYL SAID THAT THE NETHERLANDS ONLY PLANNED TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN FOR THE TIME BEING.

2. DEN UYL'S REMARKS FOLLOWED THOSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO HAVE UNIFORMLY BEEN CRITICAL OF
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CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ACTIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL IN AN EARLIER PUBLIC STATEMENT COMMENTED THAT "ANYGHING THAT RUNS COUNTER TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE FINAL ACT IS TO BE DEPOLRED." PRESS REPOTS INDICATE THAT VAN DER STOEL WILL RAISE SUBJECT AT NEXT EC MINISTERIAL MEETING TO SEE WHT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN BY NINE. HE MAY ALSO RAISE DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, WHO IS VISITING

THE HAGUE.

3. DUTCH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT HAVE ALSO SPOKEN OUT FOR CHARTER '77 VICTIMS. LABOR PARTY SPOKESMAN SUBMITTED WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO VAN DER STOEL CONCERNING "FLAGRANT VIOLATION" OF HELSINKI ACCORDS, ASKING GON TO RAISE MATTER WITH CZECHS. DUTCH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CDA) WILL ASK EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST CZECH PRESSURES. A CDA SPOKESMAN SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS FEDERATIONS SHOULD ALSO EXPRESS DISAPPROVAL. MCCLOSKEY

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